



Sen. Joyce Mulliken's UPDATE FROM OLYMPIA 1/27/03

Dear Friends,

Sen. Joyce Mulliken
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Committee Assignments

Land Use & Planning (Chair)
Highways & Transportation
Higher Education
Commerce & Trade

IMPORTANT DATES:

Monday, Jan. 27

3:30 pm: Land Use & Planning Committee, SHR 3: Overview of GMA hearings boards' reviews of City of Everett and Skagit County.

3:30 pm: Ways & Means Committee, SHR 4: (*) SRC 2003 Supplemental Budget proposal

Tuesday, Jan. 28

1:30 pm: Parks, Fish & Wildlife, SHR 2: Public hearing on body gripping traps (SB 5129 & 5179)

Thursday, Jan. 29

(**) Land Use & Planning Committee, SHR 3: SB 5409, providing a new direct petition annexation method.

One of the major issues we'll be dealing with this week is a Senate Republican proposal to speed up the cost-savings suggested in Governor Locke's budget.

In order to help fill the \$2.4 billion budget hole, Locke proposed state employee hiring freezes, reducing state agency spending, and managing the Basic Health Plan more efficiently. If Locke's budget passes, these provisions will go into affect in July of this year.

This week, I will join with my Senate Republican colleagues in passing a Supplemental Budget (*) that will include many of Locke's proposals. Our thinking is, "If it's good enough for July, it's good enough for right now!" By implementing these measures early (starting in April), we can save \$127 million now and another \$250 million in the next budget cycle.

I am committed to holding the governor to his "no tax increase" promise, and that commitment starts with holding him to his initial budget proposal. We'll see in the next few weeks how serious the governor and others in the Legislature are about not raising taxes.

Again, please contact my office with any questions or concerns you may have. It is a pleasure to serve you.

Sincerely,

Sen. Joyce Mulliken, 13th Legislative District

- I have proposed legislation to create a new direct petition annexation method. The state Supreme Court's ruling has had a huge impact on landowners and cities across the state, especially Moses Lake and Yakima, the cities originally involved in the case. My proposal, Senate Bill 5409, creates a "double-majority" petition method; both a majority of voters and property owners would have to approve future annexations. This bill will receive a public hearing on Thursday. (**)
- Senate Bill 5020 reduces state government's ability to buy more land. Under this measure, no more than five contiguous acres of land can be purchased by a state agency without legislative approval in counties where nontaxable public and tribal land exceeds 70 percent.

The Daily Record (1-10-03)

Mulliken said she wants to work with her fellow lawmakers to protect and promote small businesses.

"I want to work toward more deregulation, allowing businesses to compete on equal and solid footing," said Mulliken. "I have friends and neighbors who are unemployed for the first time in their adult lives. The Legislature needs to do everything it can to provide a better business climate and retain jobs."